The Little Red Hen Tells All

1. The Plot

The plot of this story revolves around the hen baking bread and how all the animals on the farm desperately feel they need to have this loaf of bread more than she does.

The story starts off explaining how it is not easy being a hen... She begins by finding a grain of wheat and then asking “quote: Who will help me plant this grain of wheat?” (Page 12) She then begins by planting a grain of wheat, watching it, watering it every day and through the nights until it grew. It grew and she replanted until she had enough grains of wheat to make some flour. Then she ground up the grain into flour and made some bread. Once she made the bread “quote: Holding the loaf with its plume of aroma in between the tips of my wings.” (Page 13) she asks, who will help me eat this delicious loaf of bread?

All the animals replied like they needed it more than she did, they also stated that she could make more bread, even though it was her elbow grease that made the bread. She then states in the book that she is no rooster but continues to apologise for being a hen, then hands over the bread to the people, even her piece. “Quote: Have some more. Have mine.” (Page: 14)

The writer did a fantastic job of making the unexpected expected, jumping back and forth through, what I should do’s, to what I actually did. Giving the readers a full view of the difference between a fairy-tale, and what happens in a reality-tale-book.

1. Type of Conflict

Man vs. Obstacle or Society

1. Type of Character

I think the Hen is a static main character. Static, because she doesn’t change throughout the whole story and a main character because she is the one they refer to who has to deal with the challenges of making bread and giving it away.

The other characters in the story would a society; I wouldn’t name every character/animal from the book because they all said the same thing, and no one person stood out from the crowd.

1. Point of View

This story is told in the 1st person, the hen is the narrator and the main character. She talks about what she should have done from the story books, but then tells you this isn’t a story book and does the opposite. It’s a different angle of looking at a short story, no more traditional endings or predictable fairy-tale schemes, just look for the unexpected and there’s the story.

1. Symbolism

The story aims at a lot of symbolism, like when they tell her she is selfish for wanting to keep some bread for herself when really they are the selfish ones. “Quote: They shoved petitions through my mail slot. They became depressed. They accused me of selfishness. They developed symptoms. They threatened suicide. They said it was my fault, for having a loaf of bread when they had none.

They blamed her for baking the loaf of bread and not sharing yet they did no work. She asked them over and over for help, but it’s not like they volunteered when she asked. She did all the labour to make the bread; they just wanted the end result.

The Theme

The theme of the story is about how life isn’t always what it should be and about keeping boundaries with people in situations. From looking at the title of the story “The little red hen tells all” you understand that there has to be something different to this story. Once she makes the bread then she tells you that she “Should have done this” or, “Should have done that” The possibilities are endless for what we could do but it is what we choice to do that shapes our decision in the end.